



February 15, 2026
 Series: Week 7
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THE LORD'S PRAYER - Matthew 6:5-13

Today we are going to hear a masterclass taught by Jesus on Prayer. First, He will start out with some preliminary wisdom on how to approach it, before moving into His powerful example of how to practice it.

As you approach prayer... (Matt. 6:5-8)

Don't... (v. 5)

...pray to gain glory, power, accolades.

...pray using hypocritical "pressure prayers", preaching to others what you may not even be practicing yourself.

Do... (v. 6)

...pray with faith that God "sees" you.

...pray with pure motives and true words.

Don't... (v. 7)

...pray as if God needs "magic" or "lucky" language.

...pray as if God is a "cosmic vending machine", and you are the one demanding the outcome.

Do... (v. 7)

...pray believing that God knows the whole story.

...pray believing that He knows your needs, and cares about them.

Learning from Jesus' example of prayer from three perspectives... (Matt. 6:9-13)

1.) Overall... a time-tested recitation, and a cross-cultural invitation...

a time-tested recitation:

-It has been powerfully repeated throughout the Church for many generations.

-Versions may vary in wording, but the message remains the same.

-There are moments where we don't know what to say in prayer, but desire to use words to express our hearts.

-Using the written prayers of those who have come before us, with Jesus, a prime example, can be so helpful.

...a cross-cultural invitation:

-“Abba” (Aramaic) – “Our Father”

-Aramaic was the spoken language during Jesus' day, but Hebrew was the sacred language the Jewish people used for recited prayer and worship. Hebrew was seen as being a sacred language. To pray in Aramaic was a major upheaval. This unusual act signified that prayer could happen in any language, and that no culture was more highly elevated or to be seen as exclusive. (Kenneth Bailey, "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes", 95)

Consider:

-Who are those you know that speak another language? Maybe this week, you could ask them to pray the Lord's Prayer with you. Celebrate together the unity we can have as one family, with one heavenly Father!

-Ask someone younger than you, and someone older, to prayer the Lord's Prayer with you. Allow them to use the version they feel most drawn to. Discover together what the Prayer means to them, in their unique stage of life.

2.) Two Halves ... Practicing the Honoring of our Father, and Honesty as His Children ...

Honoring of our Father (v. 9-10):

-Our Prayers should begin with a right recognition of who God is, and what He has done.

-He is the Holy One; He is the One with all the power and authority, ruling and reigning; He is the One with the perfect knowledge and the trustworthy plan!

-This word “Abba” is both rightly respectful and a profoundly personal.

-Jesus speaking **to** God as “Abba” or “Father” was not completely unheard of but was highly unusual.

-in the Old Testament, God is spoken **of** as being “like a Father”. (Psalm 103:13)

Consider:

- Has your earthly father, or other father-figures in your life, shaped your view of what our “Abba” Father is like?
- Do you take time, even a moment in the beginning of your prayers, to remember who you are addressing?

...Honesty of His Children (v. 11-13):

- Our requests can be stated frequently, in simple words, raw in emotion, with confidence in the Father’s care for us.
 - Jesus’ prayer is simple, approachable. That’s how it should be. (Matthew 11:28-30)
- Our Father will move us to application, so that we can grow and mature.
 - The request for forgiveness is the most obviously stated example. We must give forgiveness away in our lives, in order to fully understand and experience the forgiveness of our Father.

Consider:

- Do you have requests of God that you are embarrassed to ask? Have you been intimidated by the prayers of others, keeping you from feeling that your words are adequate?
- What steps of application has God brought to your mind during times of prayer? Who might you be able to process this with to offer you help or accountability?

3.) Line-by-line... Seven requests for transformation in your life, and in the world around you.

Consider using the following prayer practice:

- First, **take time to become aware of God’s active, loving presence with you.** Honor Him, worship Him, be with Him.
 - Allow your **breathing** to be a reminder...
 - ...of His presence with you (*as close as the air that you breathe in...*)
 - ...and of His desire to hear your requests brought before Him (*as natural as the air you breathe out...*)
- Then, ask the Holy Spirit to help you examine **your life**, in light of each request.
 - (*“Have I kept Your Name holy?”, “The temptation I am currently facing is _____”*)
- Finally, move your awareness out into **the world around you**, to your loved ones, your community, and beyond, and pray each request over the people/regions/situations the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.
 - (*“May Your Kingdom bring justice to _____”, “Would you provide for the needs of _____?”*)

Jesus invites us to “Pray like this:”

“Our Father in heaven...

- 1.) May Your Name be kept holy.
- 2.) May Your Kingdom come soon.
- 3.) May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
- 4.) Give us today the food we need,
- 5.) and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
- 6.) And don’t let us yield to temptation,
- 7.) but rescue us from the evil one. “